IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please rewrite the Abstract as follows:

A *cis*-acting nucleotide sequence which is capable of rendering the removal of introns from a precursor transcript encoded by a gene, which gene harbors at least one such *cis*-acting nucleotide sequence, occurring during the production of mRNA of a gene, dependent upon activation of a *trans*-acting factor. The *trans*-acting factor is an RNA-activated protein kinase which is capable of phosphorylating the α-subunit of eukaryotic initiation factor 2. The *trans*-acting factor may be preferably, the RNA-activated protein kinase (PKR). The *cis*-acting nucleotide sequence can be derived from the 3' untranslated region of the human tumor necrosis factor α gene (TNF-α 3'-UTR) and may comprise the nucleotide sequence as denoted by SEQ ID NO:1 or biologically functional fragments, derivatives, mutants and homologues thereof.

Please rewrite paragraph 1, first line, page 31 of the specification as follows:

Example 4A

*Splicing of TNF-α Precursor Transcripts Carrying TNF-β 3'-UTR Sequences is Insensitive to 2-AP*

Please rewrite paragraph 3, page 32 of the specification as follows:

The structure of 3' UTR-αEP RNA transcript was analyzed by T1, U2 and V1 RNase sensitivity mapping (Fig. 5). 3'UTR-αEP RNA forms a stable, 5'-proximal 48-nt stem-loop containing 17 base pairs (DG= -59 kJ at 30°C). As calculated by the RNADraw and *mfold* algorithms [64], this stem-loop structure persists in the longer EP-containing RNA fragments shown in Figure 4A.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 2

Please rewrite claims 1, 3-31 and 47-49 as follows:

1. A *cis*-acting nucleotide sequence which is capable of rendering the removal of introns from a precursor transcript encoded by any gene, which gene harbors at least one such *cis*-